

Application No. 09/658,763
Amendment dated June 10, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 18, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Responsive to the Examiner's Communication mailed May 18, 2004, entitled *Notice of Allowability*, applicant submits herewith corrected page 9 of their application to correct an inadvertent misnumbering of drum 18, noted by the Examiner in Paragraph 3 of the Communication. Entry into the record is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in connection with this submission to Deposit Account No. 23-0785.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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with the manifolds successively operated at 100, 300, 800 and 800 psi , at a line speed of 50 feet per minute.

The entangling apparatus of FIGURE 1 further includes an imaging and patterning drum 18 comprising a three-dimensional image transfer device for effecting imaging and patterning of the now-entangled precursor web. The entangling apparatus includes a plurality of entangling manifolds 22 that act in cooperation with the three-dimensional image transfer device of drum 18 to effect patterning of the fabric. In the present example, the three entangling manifolds 22 were operated at 1900 psi, at a line speed which was the same as that used during pre-entanglement.

The three-dimensional image transfer device of drum 18 was configured as a so-called octagon and square, as illustrated in FIGURES 4, 4a, 4b, and 4c.

Subsequent to patterned hydroentanglement, the fabric was dried on three consecutive steam cans at 300° F at 26, then received a substantially uniform application by dip and nip saturation of a pre-dye finish composition at application station 30. The web was then directed through a tenter apparatus 32, operated at 300°F.

In the present example, the pre-dye finish composition was applied at a line speed of 50 feet per minute, with a nip pressure of 40 psi and percent wet pick up of approximately 120%.

The pre-dye finish formulation, by weight percent of bath, was as follows: